

ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE DIFFERENCES WE CAN MAKE

AT HOME

Put Down Roots Planting trees and shrubs is a direct way you can improve air quality and reduce energy consumption around your home. For advice on tree types and placement contact your local arborist, Parks Department, or your local conservation authority.

Top it Off A rooftop garden is one way to green your home or building, especially if you don't have access to a yard. You can either create a garden which is accessible (easy and safe access for people) or one that is inaccessible, such as an insulating layer of grass on a sloped roof. For more information write:

The Rooftop Gardens Resource Group,
c/o Monica E. Kuhn, Architect
14 Sackville Place Toronto, Ontario M4X 1A4

IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Shade the Street A tree-lined street is not only attractive, it has an important function in shading road surfaces (a source of localized heat), and in helping reduce local air pollution and noise caused by traffic. To get advice on how you can participate in shading your street, contact your local Municipality.

Monitor and Maintain Greening your street doesn't end once the trees are in the ground. It's important that you maintain and monitor the health of green infrastructure by watering, checking for fungus, and by using natural pesticides and nutrients wherever possible. See the "Gardening Green" section in flyer two of our series.

Branch Out Participate in community naturalization programs. It's a way you can help build continuous corridors of trees and natural areas throughout the city. Another idea for branching out is community gardens. Transform unused or under-used areas of your community into productive ones. There is a wide variety of gardens, from vegetable to wildflower. Organizations in the Toronto area involved in park, community and school yard naturalization, treeplanting and other habitat restoration programs are listed below:

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (416) 661-6600
Task Force to Bring Back the Don (416) 392-0401
Toronto Bay Initiative (WRT) (416) 314-9498
The Evergreen Foundation (416) 596-1495
Greenest City (416) 977-7626

Also check with your local municipal parks or works department; many have neighbourhood garden and beautification assistance programs.



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IN YOUR TOWN OR CITY

Make Your Voice Heard By voicing your support for the continued creation of "green infrastructure" in your town or city, you're making a significant contribution to the environment.

Here are some ways to make your voice heard:

- Write or talk to your local elected representative
- Attend local public land-use and development meetings
- Join an organization in your area that promotes community naturalization
- Inquire if your local school has a plan to naturalize -- and join in

Many communities have developed green space plans, and many projects have been completed along the Lake Ontario waterfront.

For example:

- The Credit Valley Conservation Authority is working on mapping and identifying core green spaces in their Credit Watershed Natural Heritage Project.
- Citizens have prepared a green plan for the City of St. Catharines
- As part of its greening strategy the City of Burlington has recently achieved significant restoration of fish and wildlife habitat along the shoreline of LaSalle Park.

For more information or if you would like to get involved, contact your local conservation authority, parks department, or The Waterfront Regeneration Trust at:

207 Queen's Quay West, Suite 580
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7
Phone 416-314-9490 Fax 416-314-9497
email info@wrttrust.com
Web page www.waterfronttrust.com

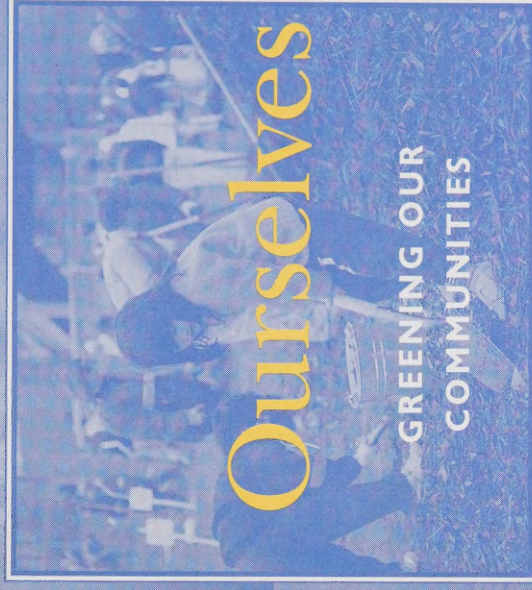
Publications on creating green infrastructure available through the Waterfront Regeneration Trust:

- The Lake Ontario Greenway Strategy
- Restoring Natural Habitats
- Greening the Toronto Port Lands

CAN
MA 700
- 2002

Government
Publications

Our air



Ourselves

GREENING OUR COMMUNITIES

As early as the 1870's, greening advocates called our gardens, parks, and ravines "the lungs of the city" for their oxygen-producing capabilities. Today, as residents of the Great Lakes Basin we are exposed to the highest air pollution levels in Canada. The greening of our homes and communities is an important step in improving air quality.

Our water

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Environment
Canada

Environment
Canada

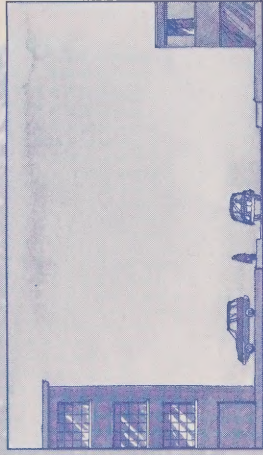


Ontario
Ministry of Environment and Energy



Waterfront
Regeneration
Trust

Breathing life into the environment



BY PLANTING TREES and other types of vegetation, you're taking action to combat local and global problems. Building the "green infrastructure" of our towns and cities and expanding the tree canopy that covers them, are important to help clean our air.

GREEN MECHANICS

Trees and other types of vegetation improve air quality by:

Cooling ambient air temperature through shade and heat absorbing surfaces, reducing the need for energy consuming air conditioners and the production of harmful ground-level ozone.

Filtering out dust and directly absorbing harmful gases such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and CO₂ ("greenhouse gas").



Expanding our Green Canopies

The canopy of trees that covers the city is an integral part of its green infrastructure. In the summer, a healthy green canopy can be likened to an enormous natural air conditioner – neighborhoods with a mature and dense canopy can often be several degrees cooler than neighborhoods with little or no tree cover. Not only do trees cool and clean the air – they provide significant quantities of life-giving oxygen – breathing life into us and into our cities and towns. By planting new trees and protecting existing ones we are helping our air, our water and ourselves.

Building Green Infrastructure

Our communities have been built using traditional infrastructure – roads, pipes and utility lines. This infrastructure has performed essential services such as transportation, water treatment and storm water management. Today, we understand that "green infrastructure" can fulfill many functions in the urban environment. Green infrastructure is a connected network of parks, corridors and other green spaces. Green infrastructure makes our communities more attractive and improves our health and quality of life. It can also improve air quality, restore natural habitats, assist in stormwater management and enhance recreational opportunities.

TREE POWER

- Two mature trees provide enough oxygen for a family of four
- Tree-lined streets can be 5 to 6 degrees cooler on a sunny day than bare streets
- A study showed that trees in the City of Chicago removed an estimated 17 tonnes of carbon monoxide, 93 tonnes of sulphur dioxide, 98 tonnes of nitrogen dioxide, 210 tonnes of ozone, and 223 tonnes of fine particulate matter during 1991
- In one year, one tree can sequester an amount of carbon equal to the amount emitted by one car driven 16 kilometres
- Increasing tree cover by 10% (3 trees per building) can reduce total energy use by up to 10%